



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Beth Sherman

571-372-0705

ESGR-PA@osd.mil

**Department of Defense Announces U.S. Marshals Service as
2013 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award Recipient**
*District of Columbia Employer Among Fifteen to Receive Nation's Highest Honor for
Supporting Guard and Reserve Employees*

ARLINGTON, Va. – Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Department of Defense office, announced today that U.S. Marshals Service of Washington, D.C. is one of 15 recipients of the 2013 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. The Freedom Award is the DoD's highest recognition given to employers for exceptional support of Guard and Reserve employees. These employers distinguished themselves among the 2,899 nominations received from Guardsmen and Reservists. The 2013 recipients will be honored at the 18th annual Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award ceremony in Washington, D.C. on September 26, 2013.

"I commend and thank the 15 recipients of the 2013 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award for providing exceptional support to our Citizen Warriors," said Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel. "So many of our Nation's employers are finding ways to contribute to our Nation's security, but these employers stand out for their commitment to our Guardsmen and Reservists. They have the gratitude and thanks of the entire Department of Defense."

The U.S. Marshals Service was nominated by a member of the Coast Guard Reserve. The nominator reported when a storm collapsed the roof of a deployed employee's father, the U.S. Marshals Service, Eastern District of Louisiana quickly rallied to secure a tarp over the roof in the midst of the storm. The U.S. Marshals Service is also active in hiring National Guard and Reserve Service members and veterans.

The 2013 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award recipients are:

Employer

Albuquerque Fire Department
Bank of America
C.W. Driver
City of Columbus
Colorado Springs Utilities
DaVita, Inc.
Eastman Chemical
Family Allergy & Asthma
Humana
Pape-Dawson Engineers, Inc.
Richland County Sheriff's Department
Safeway Inc.
Steel Plate Fabricators

Location

Albuquerque, N.M.
Charlotte, N.C.
Pasadena, Calif.
Columbus, Ohio
Colorado Springs, Colo.
Denver, Colo.
Kingsport, Tenn.
Louisville, Ky.
Louisville, Ky.
San Antonio, Texas
Columbia, S.C.
Pleasanton, Calif.
Knoxville, Tenn.

U.S. Bank
U.S. Marshals Service

Minneapolis, Minn.
Washington, D.C.

Since 1996, only 175 employers have received the Freedom Award. Previous awardees have met with the President and Vice President of the United States, and the Secretary of Defense and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

About ESGR and the Freedom Award:

The Freedom Award was instituted in 1996 under the auspices of ESGR to recognize exceptional support from the employer community. ESGR develops and maintains employer support for Guard and Reserve service. ESGR advocates relevant initiatives, recognizes outstanding support, increases awareness of applicable laws, and resolves conflict between service members and employers. Paramount to ESGR's mission is encouraging employment of Guardsmen and Reservists who bring integrity, global perspective and proven leadership to the civilian workforce.

For individual employer releases, visit www.FreedomAward.mil under the Media Tab in the Press Releases section. For interviews regarding the Freedom Award, please contact Beth Sherman, ESGR Public Affairs, at 571-372-0705 or by email at ESGR-PA@osd.mil.

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